

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) in the Saluda Watershed



September 2004

Watershed Statistics:

Watershed Surface Area:

1,595,700 acres

Number of Farms

(U.S. 2002 Ag Census):

2,487

Crops and Land Use:

Cropland: 100,000 acres of corn, soybean, etc.

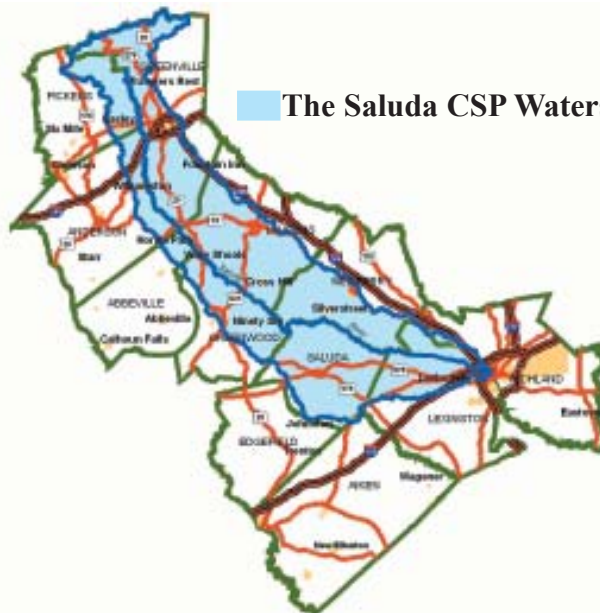
Pasture: 200,000 acres

Watershed Description:

The Saluda Watershed covers approximately 1.6 million acres, encompassing twelve counties. There are 240 miles of river within the watershed. The average farm size is 148 acres.

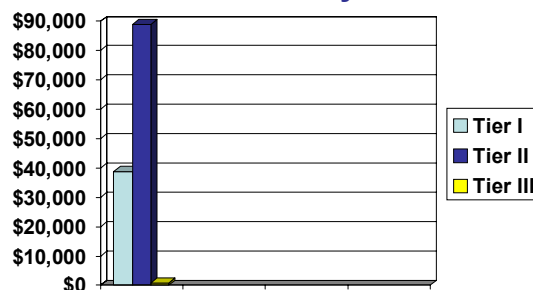
Seventy percent of the watershed is wooded.

Natural resource challenges include water quality and proper waste management. CSP will encourage and reward farmers who install buffers to protect water quality, and it will encourage controlled livestock access to streams and other water bodies.



The Saluda CSP Watershed

South Carolina CSP Payment Totals



FY-04 total payments to CSP participants in South Carolina totalled \$128,598. This included \$38,834 for Tier I; \$88,957 for Tier II; and \$807 for Tier III.



For more information:
www.nrcs.usda.gov

In South Carolina's Saluda Watershed...



- ☐ Farmers who sought out CSP info.
- ☐ Farmers who applied and were accepted
- ☐ Applied but not eligible

USDA-NRCS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

THE FACE OF THE **Saluda Watershed**



Enhancements Common in the Saluda River Watershed

- ◆ annual nutrient testing
- ◆ reduction of hazardous chemicals
- ◆ clover establishment
- ◆ creation of quail habitat
- ◆ application of fertilizer below agronomic rates



pictured left to right: SC Senator Ronnie W. Cromer (District 18), SC Representative Jeff Duncan (District 15), NRCS State Conservationist Walter W. Douglas, Newberry CSP participant John Long, NRCS East Regional Assistant Chief Richard Coombe, and Newberry SWCD Chairman Wayne Satterwhite attended the CSP signing ceremony in Newberry County.



CSP participant John Long from Newberry, SC, is a model conservationist.

“CSP gives us the opportunity to reward the conservationist who’s trying to do leading-edge conservation, going beyond the minimum of the regulation and really trying to reach for the stars in terms of what you can do with conservation.”

-NRCS Chief Bruce Knight

Model Conservationist First to Sign CSP Contract in the Palmetto State

John Long farms over 2,000 acres in Newberry County and is a conservation veteran of the first degree. Long said some of the farming methods that helped him receive a CSP contract include buffer strips, no-till planting, and proper waste management. The program has also motivated Long to plan more conservation practices. “I want to establish more wildlife habitat on my farm in the near future.”

Long’s farm was chosen to host the signing celebration for the inaugural year of CSP in the Saluda Watershed. Newberry County NRCS District Conservationist Craig O’Dell said, “Newberry farmers are deeply rooted in conservation, and Mr. Long is a perfect example.”

